

REMARKS

A Petition for Extension of Time is being filed concurrently herewith.

Reconsideration and allowance in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 7 and 15 have been canceled. Claims 1, 11 and 12 have been amended. New claims 17-23 have been added. Claims 1-6, 8-14 and 16-23 are pending in this application.

Claim Objections

Claim 12 stands objected to because of the informalities. In response, Applicant has amended claim 12 according to the Examiner's kind suggestion. Withdrawal of the objection to claim 12 is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections 35 U.S.C. §103 & Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1, 4, 11, 3, 8, 9, 13, 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Phillips et al. in view of Resuta. However, the Examiner has indicated that claims 7 and 15 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has canceled claims 7 and 15 and included all of their limitations into their independent claims 1 and 11. Accordingly, the rejections are deemed moot and independent claims 1 and 11, which include the allowable subject matters of canceled claims, and their dependent claims 2-6, 8-10, 12-14 and 16 are now believed allowable.

New Claims


Applicant submits that new claims also include the allowable subject matters of canceled claim 7. Accordingly, Applicant submits that new claims 17-23 are also believed allowable.

Conclusion

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-6, 8-14 and 16-23 are now in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. If any issues remain to be resolved, the Examiner is cordially invited to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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